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Addendum

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President's summary

Follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit report and the agreed conclusions of the twenty-sixth special session of the Trade and Development Board

(Agenda item 12)

1. The Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD briefed member States on progress made by the secretariat in the follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit report and implementation of the workplan agreed by the Trade and Development Board at its fifty-ninth session. He also outlined the additional initiatives and measures taken by the secretariat to strengthen UNCTAD.

2. Most delegations welcomed the commitment made by the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General to strengthen UNCTAD and to optimize the impact of its activities. The representative of one regional group expressed appreciation that the decisions by the Board with regard to its consideration of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit had been fully complied with.

3. Some delegations requested the secretariat to provide regular updates on the implementation of the workplan in the lead-up to UNCTAD XIV as well as after the Conference. Another delegation requested the secretariat to provide more specific information regarding what had been achieved and what the remaining challenges were.

4. Most delegations underscored the importance of results-based management to **improve the efficiency, effectiveness and relevance of UNCTAD's work. One delegation** urged the secretariat to take concrete and specific actions in its implementation of results-based management and to report on them.

5. The representative of one regional group underscored the importance of evaluation as a tool for decision-making and for continuous learning. The delegation urged the development of an evaluation culture at UNCTAD, and reiterated the importance of ensuring that necessary resources were allocated to guarantee the effectiveness of the evaluation function. Some regional groups expressed their appreciation for the systematic external evaluation of each UNCTAD subprogramme and encouraged the secretariat to continue in this direction. The continued effective dissemination of evaluation reports was also encouraged.

6. The representative of one regional group appreciated the secretariat's work to improve its communications and supported further enhancements, including the use of indicators and web statistics, as well as the dissemination of UNCTAD's work at the national and regional levels. The representative also urged closer interaction with civil society and the private sector.

7. On UNCTAD publications, the representative also recommended (a) further reducing the number of printed publications; (b) producing more publications on a biennial basis; and (c) optimizing options for electronic publications. He further encouraged the secretariat to enhance the coordination and coherence of publications.

8. Some delegations noted the increased number of memorandums of understanding between UNCTAD and other organizations. Some other delegations encouraged UNCTAD to further improve synergies with other international organizations and reiterated the need for UNCTAD to focus on its core mandates and areas where it possessed particular

expertise. The representative of one regional group requested the secretariat to publish the memorandums of understanding on the UNCTAD website or on the Delegates Portal.

9. The representatives from some regional groups requested UNCTAD to continue to improve equitable geographic and gender representation. The representative of one regional group, though, emphasized the need to keep professional expertise as the main selection criteria. He also encouraged UNCTAD to improve its human resources management by addressing recruitment, selection, promotion, appointments and retirement in a more systematic, efficient and transparent manner.

10. The representative of another regional group welcomed the establishment of directors' compacts and called on UNCTAD to further use performance targets in staff performance assessments.

11. The representative of one regional group emphasized the importance of developing the fundraising strategy, and underlined that the strategy should be closely linked to an effective, integrated results-based management framework and enhanced monitoring and evaluation capacity.

12. The representative of another regional group expressed appreciation for the secretariat's response to the recommendations of a recent evaluation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and urged full implementation of those recommendations.